

MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 26, 2014

Agenda Item: Fish Creek State Park Draft Management Plan Public Comment

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background: Fish Creek State Park was acquired by Montana FWP in 2010 in conjunction with the surrounding Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area. At 5,603 acres, Fish Creek State Park is the largest park in western Montana with strong potential to provide a unique experience within the state park system that could include diverse camping opportunities and a high quality non-motorized and motorized trail system. The Park also has potential to draw visitors to the region as a recreation destination, and provide economic development opportunities for Mineral County. The Draft Management Plan proposes a vision for Fish Creek State Park over the next 10 years and provides guidance for all aspects of park operations, including public safety, recreation management, facilities and services, tourism and economic development, interpretation and education, and natural and cultural resource management.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The Fish Creek State Park Draft Management Plan was developed internally by Parks staff with input from agency partners, including FWP Fish and Wildlife Divisions, U.S. Forest Service, Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation, Glacier Country Tourism, and Mineral County Commissioners. Following Board approval of the proposed Draft Management Plan, public comment was solicited starting on December 20, 2013 through February 7, 2014, extended two weeks from the original closing date of January 24. Public meetings were hosted in Superior on January 6 and Missoula on January 8.

Alternatives and Analysis: At the close of the public comment period, over 570 comments were received. Comments were received from individuals and organizations, and identified both support and concern for the proposed vision in the Draft Management Plan. Public comment is summarized by major themes discussed to understand and identify substantive comments for consideration in the final plan.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: This is an informational update at this time, and no decision is required with this action.

Proposed Motion: No decision required at this time.